SnapCrack

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Executive Summary

Development Standards & Practices Used

- Documentation According to Class Quality
- Life Cycle Processes - Risk Management
- Software Reliability Standards
- Guide for Taxonomy for Intelligent Process Automation Product Features and Functionality

Summary of Requirements

- Create algorithm that identifies cracking, longitudinal cracking, and potholes
- Evaluate severity level of cracking in accordance with LTPP distress manual
  - Severity levels defined for 3 different types of pavements
    - Asphalt concrete surface
    - Jointed portland cement surface
    - Continuously reinforced concrete surfaces
- Data collection done by smartphone

Applicable Courses from Iowa State University Curriculum

List all Iowa State University courses whose contents were applicable to your project.

- CPRE 388 (Embedded Systems II: Mobile Platforms)
- COM S 309 (Software Development Practices)
- COM S 311 (Algorithm Analysis & Design)
- COM S 319 (Construction of User Interfaces)
- COM S 363 (Database Management)

New Skills/Knowledge acquired that was not taught in courses

List all new skills/knowledge that your team acquired which was not part of your Iowa State curriculum in order to complete this project.

- Machine Learning
  - Setting up/using TensorFlow
  - Labeling data sets
  - Training algorithms
- Servers
  - Creation
  - Management
  - Interactions with other platforms

Table of Contents

List of figures/tables/symbols/definitions (This should be the similar to the project plan)

1. Introduction

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge our client, Bo Yang. Bo has been working with us from many angles to progress on this project, and will likely be a large contributor to our success. The basis for this project is an unfamiliar topic, but Bo has been guiding us in how to properly classify cracks based on the LTPP manual. In addition to the help with LTPP, he has forwarded research to us that is relevant to the project. He has also expressed that he will help us in the event that we need financial assistance or additional hardware.

1.2 PROBLEM AND PROJECT STATEMENT

1.2.1 Problem Statement

The classification of cracks and potholes found in roads and their severity currently requires manual measurement of the affected area. This measurement requires researchers to leave their vehicles and enter the roadway, which is often dangerous. Measurements are also often time consuming to obtain.

1.2.2 Proposed Solution

The purpose of this project is to develop an Android application that removes the need for a researcher to leave their vehicle when classifying cracks/potholes based on the type and severity. The project is driven by the need described above. This measurement is a vital part of determining where to focus research and gather additional data. The current process is both slow and dangerous; researchers are often standing alongside lanes of high speed traffic.

Our planned solution is a mobile device running a mobile application running a trained machine learning algorithm which will be mounted on the dashboard or windshield of a vehicle. The app will inference whether the stretch of road ahead of the device contains a pothole or crack. From there, the mobile device will snap an image or record video and send it to a remote server along with the location of the image for classification. The server will run the image through a classification algorithm to determine the severity of the pothole/crack and then store the classification, location, and other important data in a database for use by the users.

1.3 OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

The general operational environment for this project will be on a mobile device mounted on either the dashboard or windshield of a car using a 3rd party mounting device. Although the device will not withstand any extreme weather conditions, the user will not be capable of interacting with it while driving. It must be capable of running automatically after minimal user set-up prior to driving, and operate in a non-distracting manner to the driver until manually terminated.

1.4 FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1.4.1 Android Application

1.4.1.1 The application will use a trained model to detect longitudinal cracking, transverse cracking, and potholes found in roads.

1.4.1.2 If a crack/pothole is detected the app will save a video or image of the area where the detection occurred to the mobile device.

1.4.1.3 If a crack/pothole is detected, the app will save the location data of where the detection occurred.

1.4.1.4 If the user is connected to the internet, the application will submit recorded videos/images and location data to the server for classification.

1.4.1.5 If the user is not connected to the internet, the application will maintain a list of stored recordings/images and location data that have not been submitted to the server.

1.4.2 API

1.4.2.1 When the classification server is shut down the API shall return appropriate error codes detailing the loss of the server.

1.4.3 Classification Server

1.4.3.1 The server will receive images/videos and location data from the android application.

1.4.3.2 Videos/images and location data received by the server will be stored in a database.

1.4.3.3 Videos/images received by the server will passed through a classification algorithm to determine the severity of the cracking/pothole.

1.4.3.4 Data pertaining to the classification of severity for videos/images shall be stored in the database.

1.4.4 User Interface

1.4.4.1 The user can press a button to make the app start scanning the road for cracks/potholes. After the button is pressed the app requires no further interaction from the user to detect cracks/potholes.

1.4.4.2 The user can press a button to stop the scanning process.

1.4.4.3 The app will display bounding boxes around detected cracks/potholes to provide a visual feedback of detections.

1.4.4.4 Given the API is down, the user interface shall remain functional.

1.5 Non-functional Requirements

1.5.1 Android Application

1.5.1.1 The detection shall be able to detect cracks/potholes on multiple road types (composite/asphalt/etc.)

1.5.1.2 The app shall be capable of detecting cracks/potholes at speeds between 0-x mph

1.5.1.3 Need to do more research and testing to find a reasonable value for x

1.5.1.4 Detections made by the app shall comply with the LTPP distress manual.

1.5.2 API

1.5.2.1 The API shall have documentation for each endpoint.

1.5.3 Classification Server

1.5.3.1 The server should be capable of running on a Linux machine with a CUDA-capable GPU.

1.5.3.2 Classifications of severity shall comply with the LTPP distress manual.

1.5.4 User Interface

1.5.4.1 If the classification server is not available, the user interface shall display that there was a loss of communication to the user.

1.5.4.2 If an error occurred while sending or receiving images/videos from the server, the user interface shall display a user-friendly error message.

1.5.4.3 The user shall be capable of viewing past detections along with their data.

1.6 Intended Users and Uses

The intended users for the deliverables from this project are researchers. Researchers in this area require measurements of cracks and potholes in the road, but gathering those measurements are both time consuming and dangerous. By using this project, researchers

will be able to gather images and classify cracks/potholes much quicker than they could manually. Researchers will also be able to complete this task from their vehicle, which will be safer than roadside. They prioritize accuracy and availability of data, so we will focus on those two ideas when implementing our project.

1.7 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

1.7.1 Assumptions

1.7.1.1 The mobile device will be mounted using a third party mounting device on either the dashboard or windshield
1.7.1.2 The application will be started prior to the user driving, requiring no interference until the user has finished evaluating their target area
1.7.1.3 The product will not be used outside of the United States
1.7.1.4 There will be 10 or fewer concurrent users sending/receiving data from the server at a given time
    1.7.1.4.1 Primary focus as defined by the client is on creating a functioning and accurate algorithm and less on supporting multiple users
1.7.1.5 Data obtained from the application and any processing of the data will be stored in a centralized database
    1.7.1.5.1 We don't currently foresee different organizations using this application simultaneously

1.7.2 Limitations

1.7.2.1 The application should be run on commercially available mobile devices without the use of additional hardware (outside of the mounting device)
1.7.2.2 The application should be simple to use, requiring no prior knowledge of machine learning, LTPP crack classification, or any other prior knowledge to operate
1.7.2.3 The classifications will be categorized using criteria from the LTPP distress manual

1.8 EXPECTED END PRODUCT AND DELIVERABLES

1.8.1 Android Application

The Android application shall be free and available on the Google Play Store or through a downloadable APK. It shall require no additional downloads or modifications to the Android device to be operational. It will operate exclusively with the delivered server and database using an API designed for this project. This application will be capable of using a trained model to detect cracks/potholes found in roads and displaying information pertaining to the detection for the user.

1.8.2 API

There will be an API that can be used to communicate with the server to create, read, update, delete, and query data stored on the database as well as utilize functions related to severity classification of images/videos.

1.8.3 Database

The database will be made available in a condition that requires no additional actions from the client to operate. Instructions for how to remove data or manually add data to the database will be included in project documentation.

1.8.4 Server

The server will be available in a condition that requires little to no additional actions from the client to operate. Actions such as restarting or terminating the server will be simple to execute. The server will execute database queries and perform functions related to the classification of videos/images using the trained classification model. Instructions for how to restart the server in the event of an issue and a list of error code definitions will be included in project documentation.

1.8.5 Trained Detection Model

A trained model will be included in the Android application for the detection of cracks/potholes. Detectable crack types will include transverse cracking, longitudinal cracking, and potholes as described in the LTPP manual.

1.8.6 Trained Classification Model

A trained model will be made available for the classification of crack/pothole severity. This model will be utilized by the server to determine the severity of a detected crack/pothole as described in the LTPP manual.

1.8.7 Documentation

Documentation for the process of using each component and making general expansionary modifications will be made available. This will include, but is not limited to, restarting each component, wiping each component of data and restarting, performing general maintenance, and error handling. Documentation for how to expand upon the types of classifiable cracks may also be included.

All deliverables outlined in this section are expected to be made available at the end of the Spring 2020 semester upon the completion of the CPRE 492 course by the project members.

2. Specifications and Analysis

2.1 PROPOSED DESIGN

We've identified three loose approaches to this project; an all-in-one mobile application, a mobile application that sends data to a server for complete detection/classification, and breaking the detection and classification up between the mobile app and the server. Each approach has pros and cons. The all-in-one application would be the simplest and least data-intensive option for the end user, but may function too slowly to detect cracks/potholes at higher speeds. On the other hand, doing all of the detection and classification server side would be extremely accurate but require sending large amounts of video to the server, and thus be extremely data intensive. Lastly, a blended approach would allow us to detect cracks/potholes at a relatively quick pace while maintaining accuracy in the more challenging area of classification with less data.

While we recognize the value in the other two approaches, we settled on a blended application. Our current proposed design is as follows:

- Mobile application
    - Running a trained machine learning model for detection using TensorFlowLite for detecting potholes and cracks
    - Captures images or a short video when a potential crack or pothole is detected
    - Captures the location of where the detection occurred
    - Sends the image/video and relevant data to the server either as detections are made or in a batch at user request
- Server
    - Receives the image/video and location data from the Android application
    - Stores the base image/video and location in the database
    - Sends the image/video through a trained classification model for severity classification
    - Receives the output from the classification algorithm and stores the result with the input image in the database
- Database
    - Stores the captured and unedited image, location, severity classification, and a unique identifier for each detected crack/pothole

2.2 DESIGN ANALYSIS

With this design approach we are able to combine the strengths of the other two options. We believe that it doing detection in-app will cut down on the amount of required data. By detecting cracks/potholes as we go we can keep only relevant data, and therefore less storage is required both on the device and in the database. In addition, doing the classification server-side will increase the speed classification and allow us to use a more complex classification algorithm. Mobile devices have limited hardware and therefore take longer to make inferences. If both detection and classification were done in-app it is likely that it will not be capable of performing at moderate to high speeds.

It is also worth noting, however, that this design comes with some concerns. While we are hopeful that we can make timely inferences, it may not be possible to detect cracks/potholes at high speeds. Limitations in mobile hardware with both the camera quality and processing power may inhibit the speed at which the model can make detections.

Another large design choice we have made at this point was to develop the application for Android devices. Our group has significantly more experience with creating Android applications and each member owns an Android device. Helpful frameworks, like TensorFlowLite, have been created by Google and also have greater support and documentation for Android.

Initially, we were apprehensive of the blended approach being attainable, but as we continue to research and implement prototypes it is increasingly proving to be a valid option. We have found an offshoot of TensorFlow named TensorFlowLite that is optimized for mobile. After working through some examples of TensorFlowLite YOLO detection, we feel that with some adjustments the application would be able to inference quickly. Although we do not have a prototype with cracks/potholes yet, we have tested it using pre-trained models for common items and have found that it inferences with an average of around 50ms per inference on a Samsung Galaxy S7.

2.3 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

We are following an Agile approach to this project. Given that this project Our sprints will be roughly two weeks in length and will include demos with our client as necessary. Tasks are organized on Trello with task designation occuring during weekly team meetings. We are using GitLab for organization and will document issues as they arise. Merge requests will be reviewed and approved by at least two team members.
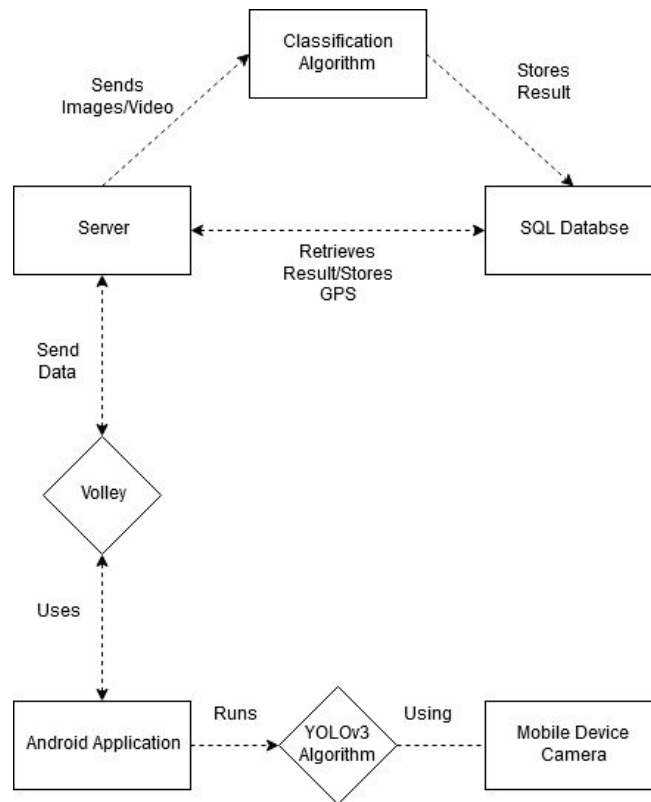
2.4 DESIGN PLAN

Figure 1. Network Diagram

3. Statement of Work

3.1 PREVIOUS WORK AND LITERATURE

Previous work demonstrates advances in object detection algorithms have lead to research leveraging deep learning for road damage. From the literature there were three popular methods for realizing this task; the first leverages a simple convolutional neural network (CNN) architecture which is used for inference to generate simple bounding boxes during run time. The second leverages more complex CNN architectures which semantically segment the objects from the background. Finally, the last provides an alternative approach to crack detection using a conditional Wasserstein Generative Adversarial Network (WcGAN). For our project we are specifically trying to detect potholes, longitudinal cracks, and transverse cracks in concrete. Furthermore, our task

involves detecting the severity level of each crack, as well as using a smartphone for data collection. The combination of these three requirements has yet to be realized.

First, from the article titled "Road Damage Detection Using Deep Neural Networks with Images Captured Through a Smartphone"[1], the authors created their own custom dataset by mounting a smartphone to the dashboard of a car that takes photos every second. From this dataset they collected over 9,000 images in which they used alongside the SSD Mobilenet architecture to train weights and biases for object detection. SSD is an object detection framework which uses a single feed-forward CNN to directly predict classes and anchor offsets without requiring a second stage per-proposal classification. The authors implement SSD using both Mobilenet and Inception V2 and conclude that implementing SSD using mobilenet on a smartphone is the faster option of the two.

Second, the article titled "A Deep Learning Approach for Road Damage Detection from Smartphone Images"[2] uses the same dataset to evaluate road damage, however instead of using the SSD architecture they use YOLO. This article YOLO, however their results are not tested on a mobile device. Our research has determined that in order to get this working in a smartphone, a lighter weight version of YOLO is required to be used to derive the weights that will map the input data to our desired bounding box detection outputs.

Next, in the article titled "Road Damage Detection and Classification with Faster R-CNN"[3], they use pixel-level segmentation to annotate and identify cracks in the pavement. While this approach is more accurate, it is more computationally expensive. Finally authors in the article titled "Road Damage Detection and Classification with Faster R-CNN" leveraged an approach using a conditional Wasserstein generative adversarial network (WcGAN) is used. Using this technique the authors were able to generate synthetic training data which would allow a deep learning practitioner to train an object detection model with the generated images to improve the detectors accuracy, resulting in a highly accurate object detector.

For our project we are specifically planning to detect potholes, longitudinal cracks, and transverse cracks in concrete. Furthermore, our task involves detecting the severity level of each crack, as well as using a smartphone for data collection. The combination of these three requirements has yet to be realized.

3.2 TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS

Implementing a convolutional neural network (CNN) to train your own custom object detector is a highly complex task we will achieve through a combination of the right

operating system, hardware, and software. We have strategically chosen a technology stack which will fulfill the requirements of the project and be easy to pick up for people new to machine learning with the help of our extensive documentation.

Linux Ubuntu 18.04 is used to build our development environment where we will manage all of our third party libraries used for training the weights and biases of our object detectors. Linux Ubuntu 18.04 has an active community of support for deep learning practitioners and is great for establishing a development environment for deep learning.

A GeForce 930MX Graphics Processing Unit (2GB) will be used for intensive processing during training. For our initial prototype we fed over 9,000 images into a custom developed yolov2-tiny object detection architecture that we used to train 3 classes that detect transverse cracks, longitudinal cracks, and potholes respectively. With this many images and multiple classes, the task of training weights for inference requires the matrix multiplication of millions of parameters stored as n-dimensional matrices. GPU's allow thousands of threads to be run concurrently in contrast to one or two threads per CPU core which exponentially reduces training time.

Our prototype implementation of our object detector was specifically trained and ran using CUDA, OpenCV, and Darknet. CUDA enables GPU acceleration that facilitates the processing-intensive matrix multiplication operations involved in training the weights and biases of our custom object detection implementation.   OpenCV supports multiple performs inference which decodes the weights and biases and generates the bounding boxes which display the predicted object and confidence level of this prediction. The Darknet framework is simply the backend for creating custom YOLO object detectors.

3.3 Task Decomposition

3.3.1. Gather Requirements

3.3.1.1 Gather functional requirements

3.3.1.2 Gather non-functional requirements

3.3.2. Gather Domain Knowledge

3.3.2.1 Gather information on problem context

3.3.2.2 Gather information on data collection mechanism

3.3.3. Implement a Custom Object Detector

3.3.3.1 Choose multiple CNN architectures to train and to test

3.3.3.2 Setup the development environment to train and run inference

3.3.3.3 Extensively document installation steps

3.3.3.4 Using multiple YOLO architectures to train road damage detectors

3.3.3.5 Run tests on custom object detectors

3.3.4. Create a Custom Dataset for Object Detection

3.3.4.1 Identify pre-existing datasets for road damage detection

3.3.4.2 Integrate pre-existing datasets

3.3.5. Scale a Custom Object Detector to a Mobile Device

3.3.5.1 Collect data for custom dataset for road crack detection

3.3.5.2 Create a custom dataset

3.3.5.3 Install Tensorflow

3.3.5.4 Extensively document tensorflow installation instructions

3.3.6. Test the Object Detection System's ability to Generalize

3.3.6.1 Collect data for custom dataset for road crack detection

3.3.6.2 Create a custom dataset

3.3.6.3 Install Tensorflow

3.3.6.4 Extensively document tensorflow installation instructions

3.3.5 Implement Server Side Object Detection

3.3.5.1 Program logic to capture an image on Android Device

3.3.5.2 Send the image to the server

3.3.5.2 Setup OpenCV on the server

3.3.5.3 Apply the severity level recognition server-side.

3.3.6. Implement UX / UI Design

3.3.6.1 Design user friendly AI for Android application.

3.3.6.2 Parse GPS coordinates from image metadata

3.3.6.3 Create web based UI for severity level recognition

3.3.7. System Level Testing

3.3.7.1 Test and measure the speed and accuracy of object detection

3.3.7.2 Test the integration of Android, the server, and web-based UI

3.4 Possible Risks And Risk Management

Risk Occurrence Scale
1. Improbable: unlikely to happen - frequency: **0**
2. Remote: unlikely but possible - frequency: **0.01**
3. Occasional: could happen sometimes - frequency: **0.05 - 0.1**
4. Probable: is expected to happen - frequency: **0.1-0.3**
5. Frequent: will occur several times in the year: **1**

Risk Impact Scale
1. Negligible:
2. Minor: late **1 week** with **no penalty**
3. Serious: late less than **2 weeks** with **10% penalty**
4. Critical: late less than **3 weeks** with **20% penalty**
5. Catastrophic: late more than **4 weeks** with **30% penalty**

Risk Exposure Matrix

		Consequence of Failure (COF)				
		1	2	3	4	5
Probability of Failure (POF)	1	Very Low	Very Low	Low	Medium	High
	2	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	High
	3	Low	Medium	High	High	Very High
	4	Medium	High	High	Very High	Very High
	5	High	High	Very High	Very High	Very High

Risk Evaluation

Risk	Occurrence	Impact	Exposure
Lack of resources could affect the speed of project progression	0.05	Serious	High
Development environment could be too challenging to setup	0.01	Critical	High
Lack of domain expertise could lead to solutions that are initially suboptimal	0.05	Critical	High
Currently lack the resources to achieve server side severity level detection	0.1	Catastrophic	Very High

Table 2. Risk Evaluation

Risk Breakdown

Title: Lack of resources could affect the speed of project progression
Response: Risk Reduction
Justification: Because of the amount of data that needs to be processed to train a custom object detection model, training without a GPU could take weeks. Additionally we need to obtain a cell phone mount for collecting data from a smartphone mounted in a car.
Risk Reduction Action: Begin with development in the first semester and identify project resources. Checkout laptops from the SSG that have CUDA capable GPUs.

Title: Development environment could be too challenging to setup
Response: Mitigate
Justification: Building deep learning libraries, frameworks, and backends requires a skillset that not all team members have fully developed.
Mitigation Action: Extensively document installation steps and share information about issues in the GitLab issue tracker.

Title: Lack of domain expertise could lead to suboptimal solution
Response: Mitigate
Justification: Deep learning is a large and complex area, and our plan to implement object detection for post processing server-side is very ambitious.
Mitigation Action: Do an extensive literature review and work in a way that is agile. Check in and report progress every meeting to make sure that we are operating in accordance to the timeline, and have a backup plan to do all processing client-side to fulfill the requirements.

Title: IOT component of application could fail
Response: Mitigate
Justification: Only one team member is currently working on the IOT part of our application. Additionally in order to perform the inference and realize severity level detection OpenCV + cudnn is needed. This means that our server must be connected to a GPU in order to achieve a working application.
Mitigation Action: Resume development early on this task next semester. Request additional resources from advisor to achieve severity level detection. Assign additional support to this team member and create a detailed accountability plan for achieving server-side processing.

3.5 PROJECT PROPOSED MILESTONES AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Task 1 Milestone: Preliminary Phase is Complete

- Functional requirements gathered.
- Nonfunctional requirements gathered.
- Cuda 9.0 + cudnn v7.3.0 and Darknet installed
- OpenCV Version 4.0.0 installed.
- Tensorflow r1.12 installed.
- Installation steps documented for all 3rd party software.

Task 2 Milestone: System Design is Complete

- All parts designed for networking.
- All parts for user interface are designed.
- Create database diagram.
- Create high level systems level diagram.

Task 3 Milestone: System is Constructed

- Object detection integrated into Android smartphone app that detects initial cracks and potholes.
- Server-side object detection is performed that detects the severity level of the crack.
- Web UI allows clients to view the results of server-side object detection.
- All parts of the system are integrated.

Task 4 Milestone: System Testing is Complete

- Data collection has been tested using smartphone mounted in car.
- Testing has been completed to verify an image can be sent to the server.
- Testing has been completed to verify images can be processed on the server.
- Testing has been completed to verify the processed image can be viewed on the Web UI.

3.6 PROJECT TRACKING PROCEDURES

Our group is using a Trello board to track work that is in progress, on the backlog, and completed. In addition to the trello board we are using GitLab issues. We provide our team with a standard template to fill out when reporting issues to the repository that enables easy communication and collaboration in resolving these issues.
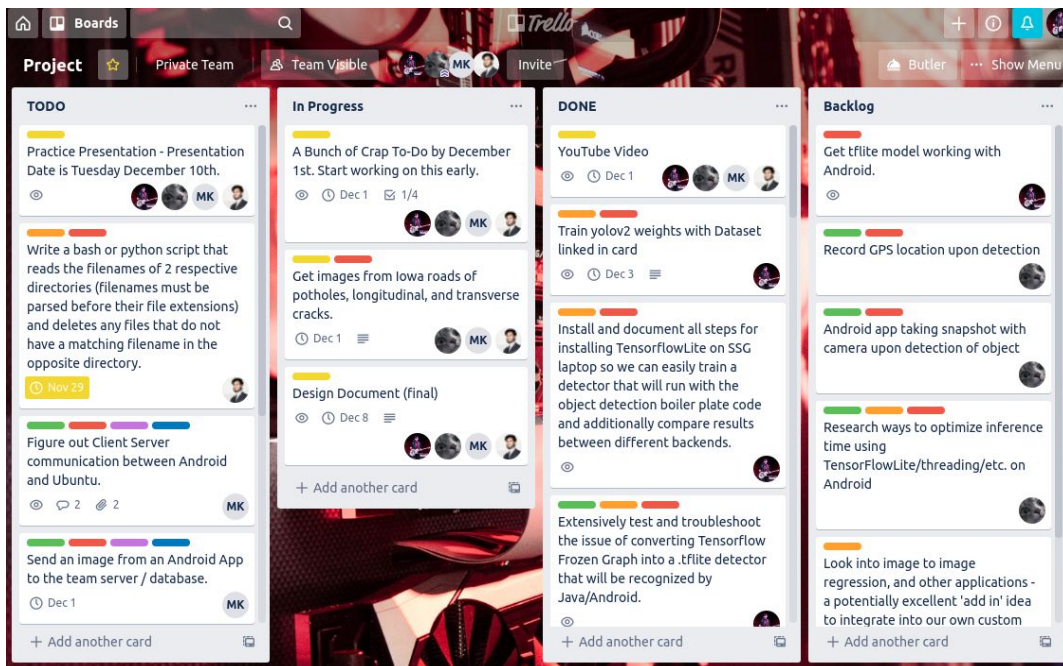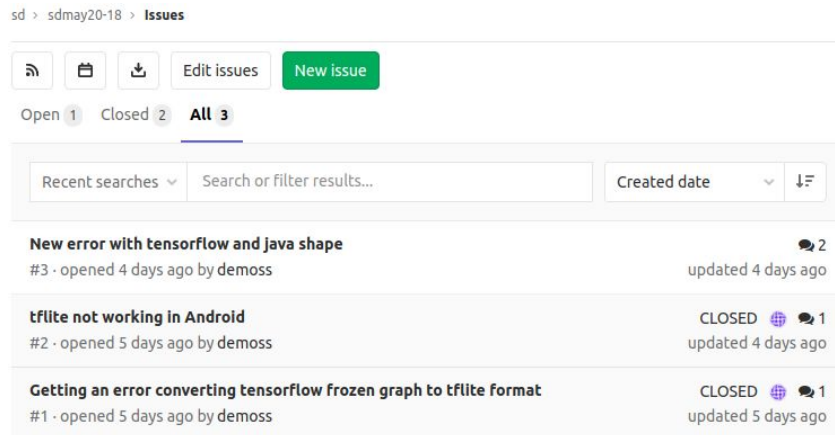

Figure 2. Trello Board

Figure 3. GitLab Issue tracker

3.7 EXPECTED RESULTS AND VALIDATION

The desired outcome of our work is to create a 2 valid training models. Our first model will be intended for use directly on smartphones, and our second model will be a more heavyweight model which will perform more rigorous crack detection, including multiple levels of severity. Our model should be generalizable, meaning that the weights that we generate to perform our crack detection task should work during different times of the day and on pavement and cracks in different cities. Additionally our results from validation testing will help us determine if we have reached our goal.

4. Project Timeline, Estimated Resources, and Challenges

4.1 PROJECT TIMELINE

Based off of Task list

Timeline:

Fall Semester:

Each date is a Thursday, which is when we meet with our advisor. The work is to be done in the week leading up to each Thursday.

Week 7 - 10/10 (5-6 hrs): Cuda 9.0 +cudnn v7.3.0 and Darknet installed, update any documentation that needs to be created or updated regarding this process.

Week 8 - 10/17 (3 hrs): OpenCV Version 4.0.0 installed, update any documentation for this install, should now be able to run and test training a Darknet model, identify key datasets for training

Week 9 - 10/24 (5 hrs): Tensorflow r1.12 (larger build, may have more errors so extending this build and documentation step to span 2 weeks), choose criteria for labeling and begin labeling data for training

Week 10 - 10/31 (7 hrs): Tensorflow r1.12, begin training data, training experiments: follow training steps from this document. Also test the accuracy difference in unprocessed and preprocessed datasets. Try preprocessing the data in multiple distinct ways.

- Train with unprocessed dataset
- Train with preprocessed data

Week 11 - 11/7 (10 hrs): Convert Tensorflow model to Tensorflow Lite model (challenging task, may need to switch to a different model if this has not been completed by this date)

Week 12 - 11/8 (10 hrs):   Integrate our converted models into Android app and begin testing our models to see which ones have the highest accuracy.

- Choose models that have the highest accuracy and further tweak these e.g. which preprocessing techniques improved accuracy, try combinations of these.
- When it comes to training neural networks and tweaking parameters, the most important parameter is the Learning Rate. Look into ways to optimize this parameter and continue training models
- Next most important parameter is Regularization. Look further into this.

Week 13 - 11/15 (4 hrs): Start training new models based on the prior noted tweaks

Week 14 - 11/21 (2 hrs): Test these models

Week 15 - 11/28 (3 hrs): Wrap up documentation and results, come up with plan for next semester

Week 16 - 12/1-1/13: Break

Spring Semester:

Week 17 - 1/16 (10 hrs): Begin developing frontend UI in android studio. Configure server and begin backend development.

Week 18 - 1/23 (7 hrs): Begin incorporating detection into the frontend and classification into the backend.

Week 19, 20, 21 - 1/30-2/13 (4 hrs): Begin testing algorithms on real world roads and making appropriate adjustments.

Week 22 - 2/20: Finish draft of user screens.

Week 23 - 2/27 :(10 hrs): Begin creating interaction between frontend and backend.

Week 24 - 3/5 (12 hrs): Finalize interaction between frontend and backend.

Week 25, 26, 27, 28 (40 hrs) - 3/12-4/2: Test application and make appropriate adjustments.

Week 29 - 4/9 (6 hrs): Test out final draft of application.

Week 30 - 4/16 (10 hrs): Make any final adjustments.

Week 31 - 4/23 (2 hrs): Submit project and reflect on feedback.

This is our proposed

4.2 Feasibility Assessment

The project will be a mobile application for Android smartphones that will automatically detect and classify cracks and potholes in the road. The phone will be mounted on the dashboard or windshield of the user's vehicle, with the camera facing down towards the road. The application will record and a video with geotags and timestamps recorded when a crack/pothole is detected. This information will be sent to a server, where it will subsequently be processed through the classification algorithm and returned with a list of the cracks/potholes, their location, and their classification.

We have quite a few foreseen challenges to this project. Since the user is mounting the device, there is a lot of different angles that the camera could be facing the road at. We must find a way to allow that kind of variation, or give them a strict method of mounting the phone. Additionally, since we will also we surveying highways, we need

to be able to identify cracks at high speeds. Since phones can only record at 60fps, we may have to limit the max speed of the user.

4.3 PERSONNEL EFFORT REQUIREMENTS

Refer to section 4.1 for the personnel effort requirements.

4.4 OTHER RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

We will need YOLO, cuda, and Tensorflow lite for software requirements. We will also need a smartphone and a dashboard mount, which will be provided by our advisor.

4.5 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Our project has no financial requirements.

5. Testing and Implementation

5.1 INTERFACE SPECIFICATIONS

This project's outcome consists of implementing an algorithm to be used on a mobile phone mounted in a car. Therefore, the algorithm will run on a phone with a graphical interface with minimal user input once the user has initiated the program. i.e the user should be able to input all commands before starting the cracks/potholes detection. The interface should display a real-time video feed of identified transverse cracking, longitudinal cracking, and potholes. Once identified, it will evaluate the severity of the cracking using the LTPP distress manual and store the processed data. Thus, by using real-time data for the testing, we will improve the chances of the algorithm to detect issues that may occur on the user's end.

5.2 Hardware and software

To verify that the final product meets the quality expectations and requirements specifications, an actual driving test will be performed to locate defects in the algorithm. During this test, we will drive (in normal weather conditions) in certain areas and collect enough data which we will in turn use to assess the actual outcome compare to what is expected. Nevertheless, this testing mechanism does not guarantee that all defects will be identified. Thus, with the outcome, we will decide whether to improve our algorithm and fix the issues (if severe) or whether to consider that we the algorithm minimum requirements have been met.

5.3 Functional Testing

To achieve functional testing, we will identify functions that the algorithm is expected to perform. Then create input (i.e. feeding images/videos) data based on the function's specifications and determine the output based on these specifications. Finally, we will execute test cases and compare the actual and expected outputs.
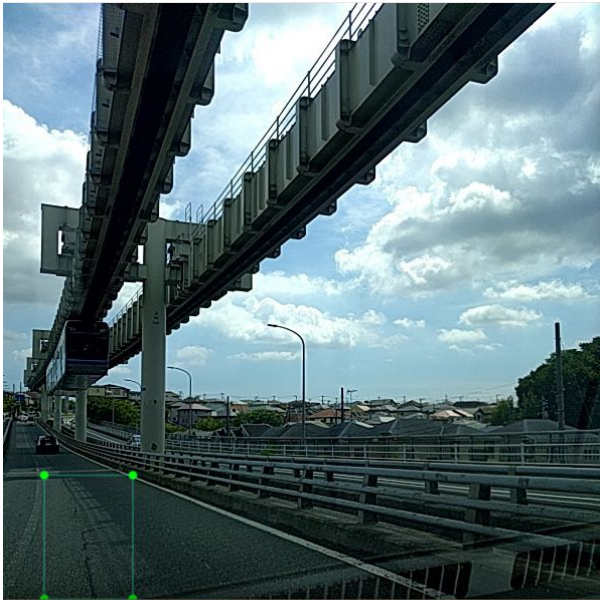

Figure 4. Ground truth label before training yolo v2 weights

Figure 5. Bounding box generated from inference.

5.4 Non-Functional Testing

While functional testing will test the functionality of the algorithm, non-functional testing is also very important and should be taken into consideration right from the inception of the algorithm. Hence, the user should be able to mount the mobile phone in the car prior to its usage and shouldn't need to have prior knowledge about how to use the application.

5.5 Process

As indicated in section 2, there are three major processes to select from: a mobile application with all the detection features included; a mobile application that transfer all the data collected to a server which does all processing; or a spit of detection features between the mobile app and the server. To be more efficient, we used a combination of those methods. The following illustrates how we tested those processes.

To test the mobile application, we looked at the images that were sent on the server by the app and verified that each of them depicts the types of cracks/potholes we were expected. In addition, we made sure that for each of those images, the location coordinates also match the values in our database. A similar approach was done to test the Node.js server, except the images from the mobile application are not processed prior to their transfer to the server. i.e, the server does all the processing. Finally, for the SQL Database, we test the output by using a large dataset of stored images, locations, and severity classifications.

5.6 Results

So far, we have a training environment setup and configured with CUDA and cuDNN module. We have tested multiple machine learning frameworks such as Keras and TensorFlow. By using Darknet backend to start the training of some models for object detection, we have successfully trained a custom model, identified a sample dataset to test the framework on, and have a good understanding on how to label images in labelIng. In addition we have a custom configuration of OpenCV to build with CUDA and cuDNN modules among other custom modules. Finally, we have visualized results of the model using OpenCV 4 which drew the bounding boxes around the object detection predictions. Hence, we are currently in the process of modeling and simulating our algorithm. Although we expect to have a prototype by the end of this semester (per the project specifications), the algorithm will be finalized to meet our client's expectations by the end of next semester.

Figure 4. Algorithm performs transverse and longitudinal crack detection
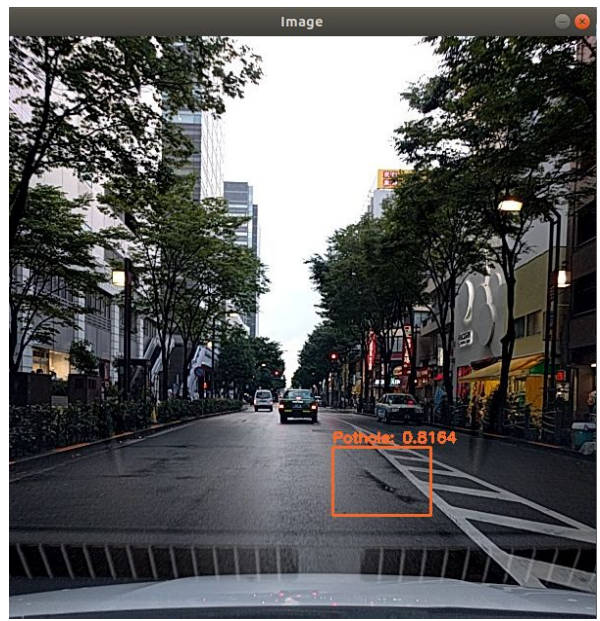

Figure 5. Object detection system detects potholes.

6. Closing Material

6.1 CONCLUSION

To sum up, the goal of this project was to develop an algorithm that can analyze the images/videos taken by a phone camera and identify the types and severity levels of cracks found. The best plan of action to achieve this goal was to automate this analysis using feeds recorded by a smartphone mounted on the windshield of a car; this technique coupled with GPS coordinates proved to help engineers locate the cracking position and develop a pavement maintenance/rehabilitation plan accordingly.

6.2 REFERENCES

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6.3 APPENDICES

Giving the current stage of this project, we don't have relevant appendices.